

K. D. Metcalf's "Universities Libraries Face the Future" (*Library Quarterly* 22: 6-7). "... In our libraries we have a section of our universities that tends, year in and year out, in good times and bad, to increase in cost geometrically, while the rest of the institution grows arithmetically. It is obvious that this cannot go on without the library's taking an ever increasing percentage of our total resources. That, expressed in other terms means that . . . each year . . . professors will have to be dropped so that the money from their salaries can be spent for library purposes." The nub of the matter here is whether library costs increase geometrically while university resources increase arithmetically. If total library expenditures are by 1950 only 3.4 per cent of the total educational expenditures, such a process cannot have gone on for long. The experience of my own institution, shown on the following table, does not indicate any such discrepancy between the growth of the library and the growth of the college as a whole. Each tended to double every decade until the depression and each has roughly doubled in twenty years since. Is the long run experience of other institutions different? Dr. Millett concludes his book with a cautious optimism about the future support of higher education. Is there reason to be less optimistic about the future support of the libraries in this field?

	1902	1912	1922	1932	1942	1952
Total institutional expenditure	\$107,313	\$225,159	\$413,858	\$825,020	\$924,068	\$1,767,285
Library expenditure	4,659	9,195	17,271	39,307	51,206	67,014
Percentage	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.8	5.5	3.8
Number of students	390	533	587	809	873	1,057
Library costs per student	\$11.95	\$17.25	\$29.42	\$48.59	\$58.66	\$63.40

The library is a minor part of the whole field of the financial aspects of higher education and one cannot criticise an author for writing his own book. Nevertheless, a study of the brief remarks on library finances raises many questions which need to be considered. The only statistics dealing with any considerable number of libraries over an extended period of time with which I am acquainted are those which show the growth of book stock and indicate a widespread tendency to double every sixteen to twenty years. The figures given for two decades by Dr. Millett, as well as those cited from Williams, suggest

that costs have increased much more rapidly. Has this been true for a century or more? Have library costs in the past century increased more rapidly than general university expenditures? Has the increase in costs been equally distributed among the service branches, the technical processes, the cost of books and periodicals, or are there discrepancies among these parts of the library budget? How far are the increased costs a reflection of additional services and a more adequate acquisition policy, and how far are they a reflection of higher salaries and higher book prices? If we can secure answers to such questions we would really begin to know something about the financial aspects of our college and university libraries. The figures may be impossible to obtain over very many years, but I hope some library school candidate will make the attempt.—*Wyllis E. Wright, Williams College Library.*

Lexikon des Buchwesens

Lexikon des Buchwesens. Herausgegeben von Joachim Kirchner. Stuttgart, Hiersemann Verlag, 1952. Vol. I. 405 p. DM28.00.

Libraries which were so unfortunate as not to have purchased the three volumes of the *Lexikon des gesamten Buchwesens* (1935-1937) edited by Joachim Kirchner and the late Karl Löffler have had a difficult time lo-

cating a copy, and then only at a price of around \$75.00. The answer to this problem has been provided in the form of a new edition by Kirchner with a slight changed title and a somewhat more modest format. However, the editor has undertaken such extensive textual revision that the term "second edition" seemed inapplicable, and accordingly he has even changed the title.

While the present work contains substantially the same information that is in the earlier one, the changes are obvious. For example, the articles on Chinese printing and book trade, Indian and Indonesian book trade

are up-to-date as of October 1952. The bibliographies include books and articles published as late as 1951, although Kirchner does not seem to have access to complete files of all the more important American, English, and Scandinavian books and journals published in the field of the book arts during the last decade and a half.

The articles on libraries and librarianship have been restricted to a few comprehensive historical surveys, and the articles on palaeography have been cut down considerably. Certain other fields such as journalism, library architecture and administration, and history of writing have been eliminated. The many entries under cities in the *Lexikon des gesamten Buchwesens* have been largely eliminated and the information included in the articles under the names of countries and provinces (although there are no entries under any states of the American republics). Bibliographies, in general, are somewhat smaller; but in a work of this sort selection is the most important element in giving additional references. It is unfortunate that articles are not signed, but Kirchner states there are "important reasons" for omitting names of authors. The list of his collaborators in the preface is a sufficient guarantee of the reliability of the work.

Kirchner has done very well by the world of the book in America and seems to have covered its most important aspects. His statement that the John Carter Brown Library is "in the University Library in Providence" (p. 110) is misleading, and the Huntington Library was not given to the State of California, (p. 337). Kirchner is not always meticulously careful with his accents in such languages as Portuguese and Icelandic, and there are some misprints. For example, read Capella on p. 44 where the name Martianus Copella appears; 1820, not 1920, as the date of the founding of the University of Michigan (p. 18); and 1951, not 1931, as the date of publication of Dagher's directory of libraries in the Near East.

Such criticism, however, is hardly justified from an English-speaking person. We should reserve any critical comments until we have produced a work such as the *Lexikon des Buchwesens* or the great *Nordisk Leksikon for Bogvaesen* (now as far as "Litografi") being published by the Nyt Nordisk Forlag Arnold Busck in Copenhagen.

The second and concluding volume of the

Lexikon des Buchwesens will be available later this year.—Lawrence S. Thompson, University of Kentucky.

Government Information

Government Information and the Research Worker: Lectures delivered at a Vacation Course of the University of London School of Librarianship and Archives in April, 1951. Ed. with an Introduction by Ronald Staveley. B.A., F.L.A. London, Library Assoc., 1952. vi, 228p. 24s.

For a long time the users of British government publications have found it easy to locate clearly written and accurate descriptions of Parliamentary Papers, Statutes, Gazettes, etc., but when it came to finding descriptions of the non-parliamentary publications of ministries and other administrative bodies very little satisfactory material seemed to be available. Therefore this new book which is largely, though not exclusively, devoted to non-parliamentary publications should be welcomed by students, librarians and research workers. Though not a systematic manual nor complete in its coverage, it will answer many of the questions concerning the functions of government departments and the series they publish which naturally arise in the minds of readers and it makes an excellent addition to a small group of works¹ which every general research library should contain.

Five general lectures furnished an introduction to this series. The first by E. M. Nicholson, secretary, Office of the Lord President of the Council, was on "The Government and Research." In the second, Dr. W. R. Francis of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research described "the government agencies and departments in which scientific research is undertaken and sponsored." These first two lectures are not printed in this book because the information they contained is adequately treated in a 1951 Treasury publication entitled *Government Scientific Organization in the Civilian Field: a Review Prepared For the Lord President of the Council by the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy*. The third of these preliminary lectures was on

¹ E.g., Ford, Percy, and Ford, G. *A Breviate of Parliamentary Papers: 1917-1939*. 1951; Harrocks, Sidney. *The State as a Publisher* . . . 1952 (Library Association Pamphlet no. 10); Temperley, Harold, and Pinson, Lilliam M. *A Century of Diplomatic Blue Books: 1814-1914*. 1938.